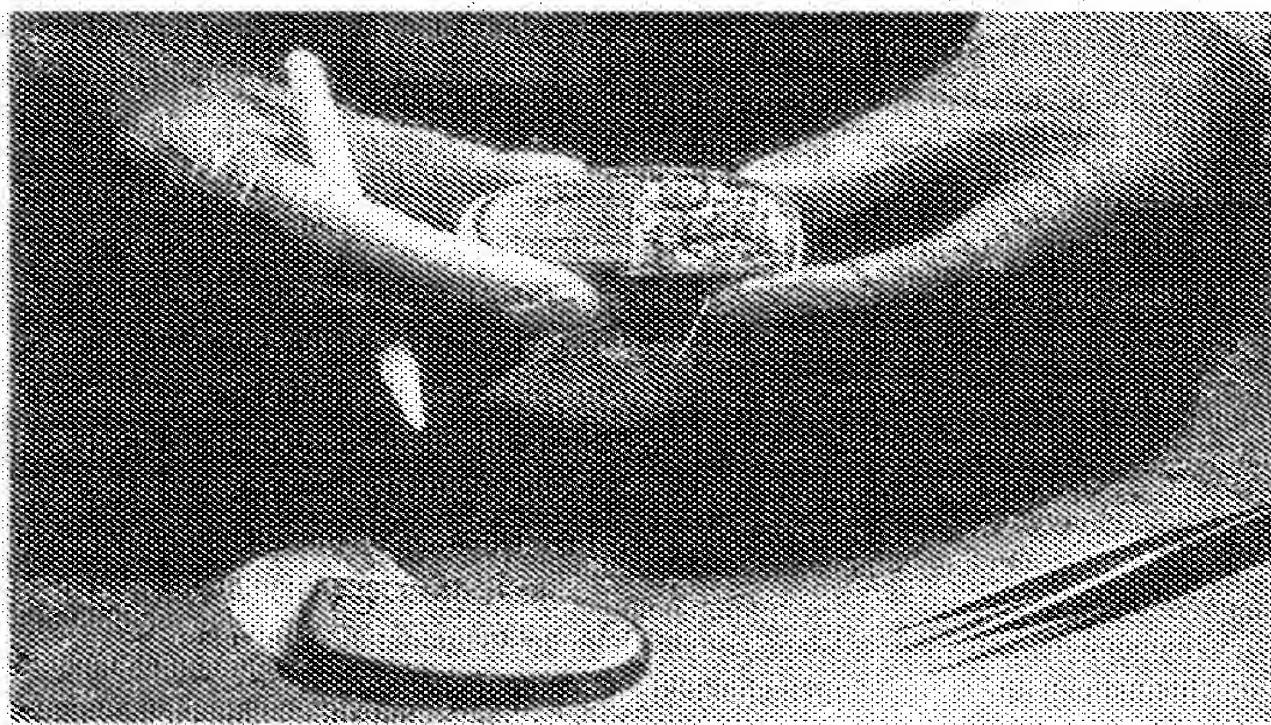


PROTECT YOUR INVENTIONS



Protecting your inventions is important. And, you can do it with the help of the Industrial Property Organisation (OPI).

At OPI, we believe that inventors and creators should be rewarded for their hard work and creativity. That's why we offer a range of services to help you protect your inventions, from trademarks and patents to industrial designs and geographical indications. Our experienced team of professionals can help you navigate the complex world of intellectual property law, and provide you with the support you need to succeed. So, if you have an invention you're proud of, don't wait any longer - contact OPI today and let us help you protect it.



INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION (OPI)

How to protect an invention in Greece

An invention is granted legal protection only when protected by a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate. The Industrial Property Organisation is the legally qualified institution for the exclusive grant of such protection titles.

What is a patent?

A **patent** is a protection title with a duration of 20 years; it is granted to the patentee for any invention which is new, involves an inventive step and is susceptible of industrial application.

What is a Utility Model Certificate?

A **Utility Model Certificate** is a protection title with a duration of 7 years; it is granted to the holder of the right for a three-dimensional object with definite shape and form, capable of giving a solution to a technical problem and proposed as novel and industrially applicable.

Status of the protection granted by a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate

A Patent or a Utility Model Certificate confer on their owner the exclusive right to produce, use, sell, and in general to exploit their invention in Hellas. In this way, they exclude any third party from any exploitation of their invention.

What happens if a third party copies or exploits an invention already protected by a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate?

The owner has the right to require from the Hellenic courts that the infringement of the Patent or the Utility Model Certificate cease and that no infringement be committed in future. On the understanding of the law, the owner is entitled to demand reparation of the damage or surrender of the profits obtained from the illegal exploitation of the invention. Alternatively, an amount equal to the value of a license for such exploitation may be demanded.

The court may additionally order the destruction of the products manufactured by the third party in violation of the provisions of the law. The court may also order, instead of the destruction, that the products or a part thereof be surrendered to the holder at the request of the latter.

What is likely to occur when an invention has not been protected by a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate?

Any third party may:

- apply first for a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate for the same invention, in which case it is granted the exclusive right to exploit the invention, excluding therefrom any other, even you
- or simply start exploiting the invention without having been granted the right deriving from the Patent or the Utility Model Certificate, thus disclosing the invention to the public. As a result, any third party, even you, is excluded from being granted this exclusive right.

Can any invention be protected by a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate?

Patents and Utility Model Certificates cover any invention which can be productively applied to any field of human activity. However, there are cases which are not covered by one of the above protection titles, as stated in the law, such as discoveries, scientific theories, mathematical methods, aesthetic creations, computer programs etc.

How can you exploit a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate?

You can:

1. either exploit productively your invention yourself without any competition thanks to the exclusive right granted to you.
2. or transfer the protection title to a third party against an agreed compensation.
3. or again grant to another person or persons a license to work the patent against an agreed compensation. In this case you still hold your exclusive right.

Is there a fee for obtaining a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate?

The rights deriving from the protection titles are granted and remain in force upon payment of the respective fees to OBI.

The said fees cannot in any case be considered an impediment against the realization of such an important step.

Comparatively, the Utility Model Certificate is a less expensive procedure with relation to that of a Patent.

What is the right way to protect your invention abroad?

By filing a complete application for a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate with OBI you are entitled to claim priority over any other person for the grant of a Patent or a Utility Model Certificate for the same invention in all member - states of the Paris Convention (member - states raise to 155, Hellas included).

You have a period of 12 months since the date of the filing to file an application with the countries which may be of interest by claiming the Hellenic priority.

Within this period of the 12 months you have plenty of time available to plan a proper protection policy considering also the relevant cost.

For filing an application abroad you have the choice of:

1. filing a complete application directly with the country of your interest.

2. filing a complete application for a European Patent after selecting among the 19 member-states of the Munich Convention you wish to receive protection in. Hellas is a member of the above Convention since 01.10.1986.
3. filing a complete international application (PCT: Patent Cooperation Treaty). In this way you have the choice to file a patent application with any of the 106 member-states of the PCT. Since 09.10.1990 Hellas is a full member of the above Treaty.

OBI contributes substantially to the procedure of the last two cases as it operates as a reception office for the respective applications.

Where to address for the protection of your invention

Exclusively to OBI as this is the only qualified institution in Hellas in the field of inventions.

For further information:

- filing of applications : (00301) 6183593
- fees : (00301) 6183594
- archives : (00301) 6183572
- legal services : (00301) 6183597
- e-mail: info@obi.gr
www.obi.gr

Offices: 5 Pandanassis Str., GR 151 25 Paradissos Amarousiou, Athens - Hellas

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